



Special Education Advisory Committee

October 6, 2021, SEAC Meeting PTA/PTO Talking Points

Livestream Recording: [To be posted](#) (Presentation and Business Meeting)

Presentation

Meet the Office of Special Education Staff: Understanding Their Roles and Responsibilities
(Supervisors, Specialized Instructional Facilitators, Consulting Teachers, and Specialist)

Presenters: LCPS Office of Special Education Staff

Next SEAC Meeting November 3, 2021

No Presentation, SEAC Business Meeting – Annual Report Review begins at 6:00 p.m.

SEAC Leadership:

SEAC Chair	Sharon Tropf	SEACChair@lcps.org
SEAC Vice Chair Planning	Shehnaz Khan	SEACViceChairPlanning@lcps.org
SEAC Vice Chair Membership	Heidi Bunkua	SEACViceChairMembership@lcps.org
SEAC Vice Chair Communications	Craig Metz	SEACViceChairCommunications@lcps.org
SEAC Secretary	Kathryn Rosenbrook	SEACSecretary@lcps.org

SEAC Liaisons:

LCPS Staff Liaison, Acting Director	Donna Smith	Donna.Smith@lcps.org
School Board Liaison, Alternate	Ian Serotkin	Ian.Serotkin@lcps.org

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Chair Report, Sharon Tropf

- PTA/PTO Representatives: 19 PTO/PTA Reps should be about 70
- SEAC Members: Currently have 15 members, 2 new members were approved, 2 applications waiting for approval after the Executive Committee reviews. SEAC is able to have 21 voting members.
- Update Annual SEAC Awards: Trophies have been ordered and should be received on or about Oct. 11th.
- Current/New Issues:
- SEAC webpage is still in progress. SEAC is working with the Office of Special Education staff to get the webpage brought up to date. SEAC wants to ensure the page is easy to navigate with relevant information for parents. Looking to update with tips for parents and with special education terms and lingo.
- SEAC Survey had 1578 responses. An independent third-party company reviewed the 2019-2020 data and categorized responses by preschool, elementary, middle and high school levels and by districts to analyze the data.
- Updated SEAC Bylaws, membership application and informational flyers have been translated in Spanish
- Date Changes: SEAC will be meeting on January 12 and February 9 versus the 1st Wednesday of the month due to scheduling conflicts with the budget process.
- CTE Committee report did not include much information regarding special education.

- State SEAC report published and priorities/issues established, this report will be posted on the SEAC webpage.
- Current Issues brought to SEAC's attention:
 - Staffing shortages
 - Access to online learning
 - Evaluations-failure to initiate
 - Information missing due to transition to VA IEP/Parent frustration
 - Student transportation

Subcommittee:

- Policy and Compliance
- Specialized Programs
 - Transition: The leads will be reaching out to LCPS transition supervisor to coordinate and attend the next meeting.
 - Literacy: The leads will reach out to LCPS supervisor to coordinate current attending a subcommittee meeting to discuss outstanding issues.
- Executive Functioning and Social Emotional Learning, SEAC Chair will reach out to help facilitate meeting.

Parent Resource Services.

Presentations:

- While the Bus is Still Coming: Exploring Self-Advocacy and Work-place Readiness Skills in Elementary School, October 28, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Overview of the Virginia IEP System, October 19, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Department of Student Services, Mental Health and Wellness Series, Sources of Strength, October 27, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Introduction to Naviance: How Parents Can Assist Their Students with College and Career Readiness, October 21, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Social-Emotional Learning: Using Skills and Strategies to Support Academic Learning, October 14, 9 to 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Webpage <https://www.lcps.org/ParentResourceServices> to register.

School Board Liaison Alternate, Ian Serotkin

- Broad Run School Board vacancy.
- New Board member may be the SEAC Liaison.
- Budget season is in beginning stages and values SEAC's input on the budget.
- Strategic Planning Cycle for school division direction.

Department of Student Services.

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services.

- Thank you for everything you are doing in recognition of presentation given this evening. Trainings are available to staff to best meet student needs. LCPS was one of the 1st divisions to bring students back into the school buildings for in person learning. Monies have been appropriated for enrichment and extension activities. COVID Recovery funds are being used to meet needs of all students.
- Will be requesting to continue to fund enrichment and extension activities to include social

emotional learning.

- Teacher shortages are real. SEAC Chair requested to be provided the number of vacancies.
- Carla Sola and Elizabeth Crotty new members of SEAC approved by board.
- September Student Services Communiqué
<https://www.lcps.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=297406&dataid=415531&FileName=September%202021%20Communique.pdf>

New Business

Policy and Compliance Subcommittee

Membership Quorum: 15 members, 13 members present.

Review Draft Policy 5320: It does not meet needs of the special education students.

Concerns:

- Parents are not part of the process and there is not enough time to prepare
- Transitions could result in learning loss
- Staff propose changes to diminish transparency, remove parent participation and weaken protection of parent rights.

Recommendation:

- Bring back the transparency, openness and collaboration. Provide time to process, post public input and responses consistent with school board
- Provide an IEP meeting prior to any change and with sufficient time

Voting: Vote was unanimous

Options for Students with Medical Disabilities:

- Students with medical disabilities are being denied distance learning options due to deadlines.
- Needs not being met.
- Students are being denied equal access to learning.
- Students cannot access school due to higher risk; students need a continuum of services to meet their needs.
- Reports of students with medical disabilities are withdrawing from school.

Recommendations:

- Provide reasonable solutions for virtual learning by opening the virtual enrollment process for students with disabilities and adding capacity to distance forum for students.
- Provide multiple solutions along a continuum for students that cannot learn via a virtual environment but cannot attend in person school, a one size fits all will not work in this situation.

Voting: 14 yes votes, 1 abstain

VAFOIA Electronic Participation:

- SEAC needs to have a policy in place, presented a draft policy for review.
- The Policy outlines allowances for SEAC members to participate electronically per Virginia Code.
- Limited to two electronic meetings per calendar year.
- Dr. Jones requested to take draft policy to Counsel for review.
- Ian Serotkin advised to allow Division Counsel to review.
- SEAC Chair agreed and this will be an informational item for this policy.